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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

François MIGNARD et al.

Serial No.: 10/058,272

Filed: January 30, 2002

For: IMPROVEMENTS TO HEATING
PROCESS OF STEEL STRIPS IN
VERTICAL FURNACES

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: Art Unit: To be assigned

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: Examiner: To be assigned

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: Atty Docket: 21029/0229

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

For ensuring compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the undersigned hereby submits the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in charge of the above-identified patent application.

The listing of these materials is not to be construed as an admission that such is actually prior art with respect to the invention of the present application and is not to be construed that such is material with respect to the present invention.

[x] The relevance of the references is indicated on the enclosed copy of the French Search Report for the priority application.

These documents are being submitted (check only one of the next four boxes):

[x] within three months of the filing of the above U.S. national application or of the date of entry of the U.S. national stage in an International Patent Application (no fee is due);

- ☐ before receiving a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified patent application (no fee is due);
- ☐ following receipt of a first Office Action, but before issuance of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (if this box is checked, the fee box below OR one of the last two boxes must be checked);

OR

- ☐ following receipt of a Notice of Allowance or a Final Office Action (if this box is checked, the next box and one of the last two boxes also must be checked).

FEE

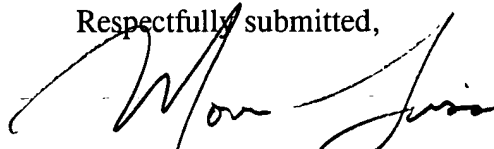
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

CERTIFICATION

- ☐ The undersigned certifies that each item of this information is being submitted within three months of the date it was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.
- ☐ The undersigned certifies that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fee(s) or to charge any additional fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 22-0185. A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached for the Finance Branch.

Respectfully submitted,



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3/20/02